



County of Los Angeles CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICE

Kenneth Hahn Hall of Administration
500 West Temple Street, Room 713, Los Angeles, California 90012
(213) 974-1101
<http://ceo.lacounty.gov>

WILLIAM T FUJIOKA
Chief Executive Officer

September 18, 2009

To: All Department Heads

From: William T Fujioka
Chief Executive Officer

Board of Supervisors
GLORIA MOLINA
First District

MARK RIDLEY-THOMAS
Second District

ZEV YAROSLAVSKY
Third District

DON KNABE
Fourth District

MICHAEL D. ANTONOVICH
Fifth District

COUNTYWIDE STRATEGY FOR SHARED DATA CENTER OPERATIONS AND DISASTER RECOVERY PLANNING

Currently, each department procures computer equipment and maintains data centers and server rooms to address the individual department's needs. This approach has created redundant functions and resources across the County, resulting in multiple data centers with independent operations and a broad range of technical environments, disaster recovery sites, service levels, and security standards. This fragmentation creates duplication of effort and increased costs. It also presents a challenge for countywide disaster preparedness and response.

Ground breaking of a new countywide data center at Rancho Los Amigos in Downey is anticipated to occur in the coming months. This event presents an opportunity to establish a new direction for a consolidated countywide data center plan that will reduce costs, improve or sustain current performance levels, improve security and disaster recovery capabilities and provide the flexibility to respond to changing departmental needs.

At my request, the Chief Information Office (CIO) will be leading an effort to develop a countywide Shared Data Center Strategy. The strategy's shared approach emphasizes departments' responsibility to work collaboratively to develop a cost-effective computing and telecommunications shared infrastructure that will support individual, mission-critical programs and services.

To ensure departmental requirements and inputs are addressed, an advisory committee comprised of departmental representatives will be created to develop the Shared Data Center Strategy. The advisory committee recommendations will be shared with the Board of Supervisors information technology deputies. The guiding principles to be used to develop this strategy are to:

- Achieve cost savings and efficiencies by maximizing County investments in hardware, software, services, data, and personnel;

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- Provide departments with equal access to advanced technologies;
- Ensure consistent security and disaster recovery capabilities;
- Provide departments equal or better service levels than those currently provided;
- Develop an equitable chargeback billing methodology or other funding structure;
- Implement "green" IT practices designed to improve energy efficiency and reduce consumption; and
- Simplify technology management and allow individual departments to focus efforts on respective core missions.

While this strategy is being developed, the CIO will collaborate with departments to take the following actions:

- Review and approve any computer-related facility upgrades or expansions;
- Perform an accurate assessment of data center-related assets, services, service levels, disaster recovery capabilities and expenditures by department; and
- Recommend specific immediate actions that could optimize current data center services and facilitate consolidation efforts.

I look forward to your support on this important initiative. If you have any questions, please contact Ellen Sandt, Deputy Chief Executive Officer, at (213) 974-1186.

WTF:EFS
RS:ef

c: Chief Information Officer
Chief Deputies
Administrative Deputies
Department Chief Information Officers/IT Managers